

ABSTRACT

A bale handling apparatus comprises a bale support surface (18) and means for gradually displacing a bale (16) off the surface. This allows flakes or wafers of the bale no longer supported by the surface to break off from the rest of the bale and enables a whole bale to be discharged piecemeal without the production of a large amount of dust. Agitating means (134) may be provided to assist in breaking up the discharged bale portions. The bale may be discharged, for example, by a movable member (e.g. a wall or gate) which engages the inner face of a bale or may comprise means for securing a cut end of one or more bale bindings and pulling the other end of the or each bale binding.